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DE RUEHSF #0272 1161445 ZNY CCCCC ZZH R 251445Z APR 08 FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4986

CONFIDENTIAL SOFIA 000272

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/25/2018

TAGS: PREL

SUBJECT: DISCOURAGING RUSSIA FROM UPGRADING RELATIONS WITH

ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

REF: SECSTATE 40673

Classified By: POL/ECON Chief Jim Bigus for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) We delivered reftel demarch to Head of European States Department, Europe III Directorate Ivaylo Ivanov on April 25. Ivanov took copious notes and said he would forward the demarche in detail to the highest levels of the Ministry. Ivanov said Bulgarian-Georgian relations were very good, that Bulgaria strongly supports Georgia's sovereignty, and noted that Bulgaria would soon send an ambassador to Georgia. He added that Bulgaria was active in elaborating the common foreign policies of the EU and would join the EU consensus on the Russian actions. Whether Bulgaria would make raise the issue bilaterally with the Russians would need to be decided at the most senior level. Beyrle